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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Current Military News from Albania

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1. Night Flight Training: On 10 Oct 53, four airplanes landed between 9 p.m. and 12 p.m. on an airfield not previously known. This airfield is located on the Albanian side of the border between Albania and Montenegro near Andrivevica in the District of Gusinje. Observers were able to locate the airfield, as light signals were used on the Albanian side of the border to guide the planes. This was the first time that the location of the field became common knowledge and the first time that planes landed on it. It is believed that this field will be used to train night fliers.
2. Radar Stations: Equipment for three radar stations coming from Germany (Soviet Zone) has been unloaded at Durrës and transported inland. This occurred in Sep 53. A special guard accompanied the equipment inland, and it is, therefore, not known where it was taken; but during the unloading, observers noted what the equipment was and the quantity.
3. Reorganization of the Army: As the Soviet Union does not place much confidence in the Albanian Army, due to the great number of deserters, the entire army will be reorganized. It will consist of a total of 50,000 soldiers on whom the Soviets can rely. These men will be divided into three infantry divisions and 10 battalions of border guards. All men eliminated as untrustworthy will be placed in special labor battalions. The new army will be completely reequipped with Soviet supplies, some of which have already reached Albania. It has been noted that the ammunition used now by the Albanian Army is of Soviet origin. There has been an increase of Soviet instructors for the army. The Soviets are particularly concerned about the coast guard units because of their strategic importance. It is believed that the Albanians are building coastal fortifications similar to the German West Wall. The basis for

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this suspicion is the great importation of cement from Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania. It is impossible to ascertain exact details on the coastal fortification plans, because by governmental decree no one may leave his place of residence for more than 48 hours without a special permit. And even when one leaves for less than 48 hours, he is obliged to register with the town council, giving the address to which he is going. Naval men are kept under constant surveillance, particularly those who have any contacts with other countries. Two naval men have been shot and 10 others condemned from 10 to 15 years imprisonment because they have overstayed their leave in foreign ports.

4. Importation of Fuel: Although Albania has oil and is now producing five times the amount previously produced, and although there is an oil refinery at Qerrik, still Albania is now importing fuel of some kind from Rumania. In the last two months 12,000 tons of fuel have been imported from Rumania and the Soviet Union. It is not known whether this fuel is gasoline or some other kind of fuel such as that used for guided missiles.
  5. New Military Schools: A new military school has been established at Banjë near Durrës. No details regarding school are known to source. A special school for chemical warfare has been established in Tirane.
  6. New Airfield: West of Berat a new airfield is under construction. There are 3,000 political prisoners employed on it; they come from the concentration camps at Berat and Tirane and are under the supervision of a Soviet colonel. The entire area is restricted.
  7. Albanian Secret Service Station: An Albanian secret service station is located at Delvinë on the Albanian-Greek border, and is under the command of an Albanian security captain.
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